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USASETAF VINCENZA ITALY

SECRET STATE 206454

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: RW, PINS, PGOV, PREL, PREF, PHUM  
SUBJECT: RWANDA: REPATRIATION AND THREATS TO  
PEACEKEEPERS

"ROME FOR CHACON AND ALSO FOR VATICAN, LONDON FOR  
MCKINLEY, BRUSSELS FOR DUBROW, MADRID FOR CLARKE, PARIS  
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FOR PERLOW, USNATO FOR FOX, BONN FOR KLEMP, USCINCEUR  
AND HQ US CENTRAL COMMAND FOR POLADS, HQ USEUCOM FOR EC  
J-5, COMMANDER USASETAF FOR G-2"

1. SECRET/NOFORN/NOCONTRACT - ENTIRE TEXT
2. INR'S AUGUST 2 ASSESSMENT ENTITLED "RWANDA:  
REPATRIATION AND THREATS TO PEACEKEEPERS" IS PROVIDED  
FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND COMMENT, AS APPROPRIATE.

BEGIN TEXT

3. THE PROMPT RETURN OF LARGE NUMBERS OF RWANDAN  
REFUGEES WOULD EASE THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN ZAIRE,  
BUT WOULD PROBABLY HEIGHTEN RPF INSECURITY AND INTERNAL  
DISORDER WITHIN RWANDA. THE MAJOR THREAT TO CIVIL ORDER  
INSIDE RWANDA--AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES--COMES FROM  
DISAFFECTED ETHNIC HUTU, PARTICULARLY DEFEATED RWANDAN  
ARMY TROOPS AND MILITIAMEN. THE THREAT TO INTERNATIONAL  
PEACEKEEPING FORCES OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS SHOULD BE  
MINIMAL.

4. REPATRIATION HAS THUS FAR BEEN QUITE LIMITED--ONLY  
ABOUT 70,000 REFUGEES RETURNED TO RWANDA FROM THE GOMA,  
ZAIRE AREA BETWEEN JULY 26 AND AUGUST 1. PROSPECTS FOR  
A NEAR-TERM LARGE-SCALE RETURN AFFEAR SLIGHT OWING TO A  
DEEP FEARS OF THE TUTSI-DOMINATED RWANDAN PATRIOTIC  
FRONT (RPF) HELD BY MOST OF THE NEARLY 2 MILLION  
PREDOMINATELY HUTU, RWANDAN REFUGEES.

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IN ORGANIZING A SAFE AND PROMPT REPATRIATION OF TH  
REFUGEES IS TO PREVENT RIPENED CROPS FROM ROTTING IN THE  
FIELDS AND TO SALVAGE AS MUCH OF THE HARVEST AS  
POSSIBLE. THE AVAILABILITY OF LOCALLY-PRODUCED FOOD  
SUPPLIES WOULD ENABLE INTERNATIONAL RELIEF ORGANIZATIONS  
TO CONCENTRATE ON EMERGENCY MEDICAL AND SANITATION NEEDS.

6. MOVING REFUGEES AWAY FROM CONTAMINATED WATER SOURCES  
IN GOMA WOULD SIGNIFICANTLY STEM THE SPREAD OF CHO ERA  
IF TEMPORARY RELOCATION CAMPS AND REFOPU ATD VILLAGES  
IN RWANDA WERE ABLE TO MAINTAIN SUFFICIENT SUPPLIES OF  
UNCONTAMINATED WATER AND ADEQUATE SANITATION. A RELIEF  
EFFORT MOUNTED OUT OF KIGALI IS EASIER AND LESS COSTLY  
THAN ONE REQUIRING TRANSPORT TO THE ISOLATED LOCALES OF  
GOMA AND BUKAVU IN ZAIRE AND NGARA, TANZANIA

7. ENCOURAGING REFUGEES TO RETURN IN TIME FOR THE  
HARVEST, HOWEVER, COULD MEAN THAT LARGE NUMBERS OF  
RETURNEES ALREADY INFECTED WITH CHOLERA WOULD RESETTLE

IN VILLAGES WITH INADEQUATE SANITATION; THESE REFUGEES  
WOULD BE MORE DIFFICULT TO IDENTIFY, REACH AND TREAT  
QUICKLY WITH ORAL REHYDRATION KITS THAN IF THEY FIRST  
MOVED TEMPORARILY TO RELOCATION CENTERS. FURTHER A  
LARGE-SCALE SELF-REPATRIATION LEAVES OPEN THE  
POSSIBILITY OF LOCALIZED OUTBREAKS OF HUTU-TUTSI  
VIOLENCE AND AN INFLUX OF HUTU MILITIA GANGS RESPONSIBLE  
FOR MUCH OF THE RECENT ANTI-TUTSI GENOCIDE.

8. PEACEKEEPERS AND THE NEW GOVERNMENT. THE  
RPF-INSTALLED GOVERNMENT POSES NO SIGNIFICANT THREAT TO  
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INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCES. ON THE CONTRARY, THE  
RPF LEADERSHIP. SEARCHING FOR ECONOMIC SUPPORT AND  
DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION, WILL DO ITS BEST [REDACTED] BE  
COOPERATIVE WITH US FORCES AND INTERNATIONAL  
HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS. THE RPF'S [REDACTED] WITH SECURITY  
COULD ON OCCASION FUEL TENSIONS BUT SHOULD NOT THREATEN  
INTERNATIONAL FORCES. DIFFICULTIES WOULD MOST LIKELY BE  
ENCOUNTERED WITH RPF OFFICIALS AND COMMANDERS AT THE  
LOCAL LEVEL, SOME OF WHOM MAY, IN THE FLUSH OF VICTORY,  
[REDACTED]

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9. THREAT FROM HUTU MILITIAS SLIGHT. SMALL BANDS OF HUTUS, SOME OF WHOM WERE INVOLVED IN THE RECENT GENOCIDE, PROBABLY WILL CONTINUE TO ROAM MUCH OF THE RWANDAN COUNTRYSIDE--AWAY FROM MAJOR ROADS AND HEAVILY POPULATED AREAS--AND BEYOND THE CONTROL OF THE RPF. THESE DISAFFECTED HUTUS--ARMED WITH MACHETES AND IN SOME CASES, SMALL ARMS OR GRENADES--WILL TARGET RPF, TUTSIS AND THOSE HUTUS PERCEIVED AS COLLABORATORS, BUT WILL MAINLY ENGAGE IN ORDINARY BANDITRY. THE POSSIBILITY OF AN AMBUSH OF PEACEKEEPERS OR RELIEF CONVOYS CANNOT BE RULED OUT. HUTU GANGS OPERATING WITHIN RWANDA AND CROSS-BORDER WILL BE A PERSISTENT THORN IN THE SIDE OF THE RPF GOVERNMENT, BUT SHOULD NOT POSE A MAJOR THREAT TO PEACEKEEPING FORCES IN THE COMING MONTHS.

10. KIGALI AND THE IMMEDIATE ENVIRONS: SECURE. THE RPF HOLD ON KIGALI IS SECURE, AND SHOULD REMAIN SO FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. THE RPF IS A RELATIVELY WELL-DISCIPLINED FORCE WITH GOOD COMMAND AND CONTROL AND  
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SHOULD BE ABLE TO KEEP HUTU GANGS AWAY FROM THE CAPITAL. UNAMIR HAS REPORTED NO SIGNIFICANT THREATS TO ITS SECURITY IN THE CAPITAL SINCE THE RPF TOOK OVER JULY 4. SMALL-SCALE TERRORIST-TYPE ATTACKS--SUCH AS A GRENADE THROWN INTO A CROWDED BAR OR NIGHTCLUB--MAY

OCCUR IN THE COMING MONTHS AND COULD POSE A THREAT TO INTERNATIONAL FORCES.

11. ANTI-AIRCRAFT THREATS:

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WE ARE SKEPTICAL OF THIS UNCORROBORATED REPORT, AND CONSIDER THE CHANCES OF SUCH AN ATTACK TO BE VERY LOW. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT MANY HUTU LEADERS OPPOSED THE RECENT US "DE-RECOGNITION" OF THE RUMP GOVERNMENT AND THAT HUTU HARDLINERS ARE PRIME SUSPECT IN THE FATAL MISSILE ATTACK ON HABYARIMANA'S PLANE IN APRIL.

12. FRENCH ZONE: SOME DANGER. THE FRENCH, WHOSE INTERVENTION THE RPF CONSISTENTLY OPPOSED, HAVE SUFFERED TWO WOUNDED SINCE DEPLOYING IN RWANDA JUNE 23. BOTH CASUALTIES--ONE OF WHOM WAS WOUNDED IN GOMA AND ONE IN

THE FRENCH SELF-DECLARED SAFE ZONE-- [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] THE FRENCH HAVE REPORTED NO ARMED INCIDENTS  
WITH THE RPF SINCE JULY 17, BUT IN THE LAST WEEK HAVE  
INDICATED THAT HUTU MILITIAS HAVE BEEN PREYING UPON THE  
LOCAL POPULATION AND OCCASIONALLY SKIRMISHING WITH  
FRENCH AND ALLIED PERSONNEL. OVERCROWDED CONDITIONS IN  
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THE FRENCH ZONE HAVE ALSO POSED A THREAT; IN ONE  
INSTANCE, SHORTAGES AND CROWDING STIRRED UP RWANDANS TO  
THE POINT THAT FRENCH TROOPS WERE AFRAID THEY MIGHT HAVE  
TO FIRE IN SELF-DEFENSE.

13. ZAIRE: THE DANGER OF ANARCHY. THE SECURITY THREAT  
IN ZAIRE TO FOREIGN TROOPS STEMS FROM THE POSSIBILITY OF  
RIOTS AND PUBLIC DISORDER. TENSIONS ARE HIGH BECAUSE OF  
ZAIRIAN RESENTMENT OF THE RWANDAN INTRUDERS,  
INTRA-RWANDAN FEUDING, AND FOOD AND WATER SHORTAGES.  
THE MAJOR SECURITY THREAT WOULD LIKELY COME FROM  
SPONTANEOUS UPEHAVALS SUCH AS FOOD RIOTS CAUSED BY TOO  
MANY PEOPLE RESIDING IN TOO SMALL AN AREA WITH TOO FEW  
RESOURCES TO SUPPORT THEM.

14. HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES. SOME SIGNIFICANT HUMAN RIGHTS  
ABUSES PROBABLY WILL OCCUR WHILE PEACEKEEPING FORCES ARE  
DEPLOYED IN RWANDA AS THE RPF SEEKS TO CONSOLIDATE ITS  
CONTROL OF THE COUNTRY AND BRING TO JUSTICE THOSE  
INVOLVED IN THE GENOCIDE. THESE ABUSES WOULD GENERALLY  
BE CARRIED OUT BY LOCAL [REDACTED] AND TUTSIS BENT ON  
REVENGE AND WOULD NOT BE AIMED AT FOREIGNERS; THE

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PERPETRATORS, UNLIKE MANY OF THE HUTU MILITIAS INVOLVED  
IN THE ANTI-TUTSI GENOCIDE, WILL MAKE AN EFFORT [REDACTED]

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INDIVIDUAL FOREIGNERS IN THE WRONG PLACE AT THE WRONG  
TIME COULD BE AT SOME RISK.

15. MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. CHRISTOPHER

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